

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 21-106 (State Attorney Executive Assignment)

WHEREAS, the Honorable THOMAS R. BAKKEDAHL, State Attorney for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has advised Governor RON DESANTIS that Ryan Hester has been arrested for DUI manslaughter and vehicular homicide; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable THOMAS R. BAKKEDAHL has also advised the Governor that Ryan Hester is related to Chief Deputy Brian Hester of the Saint Lucie County Sheriff's Office who has a close working relationship with the state attorney's office and has also announced his candidacy for Saint Lucie County Sheriff; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable THOMAS R. BAKKEDAHL, to avoid a conflict of interest or any appearance of impropriety, has voluntarily disqualified himself and has requested the executive assignment of another State Attorney with respect to the investigation and prosecution of this case and all related matters; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable DAVID ARONBERG, State Attorney for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has agreed to accept an executive assignment in this matter; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the State of Florida and of the ends of justice that the Honorable DAVID ARONBERG discharge the duties of the Honorable THOMAS R. BAKKEDAHL pursuant to section 27.14, Florida Statutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, Governor of Florida, in obedience to my solemn constitutional duty to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed," and pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida, issue the following Executive Order, effective immediately:

Section 1. The Honorable DAVID ARONBERG, State Attorney for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the “Assigned State Attorney,” is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable THOMAS R. BAKKEDAHL, State Attorney for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution, and all matters related to Ryan Hester.

Section 2. The Assigned State Attorney or one or more Assistant State Attorneys and Investigators, who have been designated by the Assigned State Attorney, shall proceed immediately to the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, and are vested with the authority to perform the duties prescribed herein.

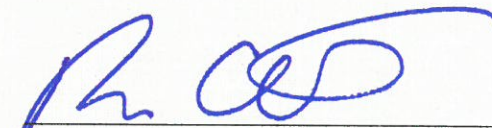
Section 3. All residents of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit are requested, and all public officials are directed, to cooperate and render whatever assistance is necessary to the Assigned State Attorney, so that justice may be served.

Section 4. The period of this Executive Assignment shall be for one (1) year, to and including May 12, 2022.

Section 5. The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before April 12, 2022, if additional time is required.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, this 12th day of May, 2021.



RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

2021 MAY 12 AM 11:18
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FL

FILED